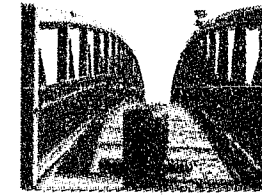


3 Mind your manners!
10 Theater for short attention spans

Whale Song



6 Expanding into the future

Dec 4- Dec 18, 2006
Vol. 27 No. 4

The new student voice of UAS
Juneau ♦ Sitka ♦ Ketchikan

Early snow, early Eaglecrest

By Laura Lemire
Whalesong

Eaglecrest's unexpected opening attracted a crowd that bustled with excitement.

Although the Nov. 18 opening was a limited one because only the Hooter lift was open, lines formed at both the bottom and middle of the mountain until the lifts stopped. Tickets were sold for \$15.

The mountain opened three weeks earlier than the date they had originally projected, Dec. 9.

"I've never seen this many people in line for Hooter," said Keith Andrews, sporting a youth season's pass on his jacket. Excited for untouched powder, Andrews headed toward the partially groomed Hilary run.

"I've been here 15 years and I've never seen an opening like this," said Jeffra Clough, the Snowsports School Director at Eaglecrest.

Although the mountain gears up and prepares to open by Thanksgiving in

anticipation of snow, the swift and unexpected snowfall had everyone working extra hours to get the mountain ready for opening.

The groomers worked round the clock to get the snow packed in time and Ski Patrol worked long hours as well, according to Clough. Staff orientation was scheduled for that weekend and had to be reworked to accommodate the opening.

"It is very unusual to be open this weekend," Clough said. "We are operating with a little bit short staff, especially in food service. Kirk Duncan, our General Manager, is cooking today."

Skiers and boarders flocked to the mountain to enjoy the unanticipated snow. Last year, the mountain opened on Jan. 26.

Another season's pass holder, Liam Carnahan, a 43-year-old Juneau resident who has been skiing since he was 11, is optimistic that this year

See EAGLECREST on page 12



Photo By Cody Bennett
Strike: Participants in the UAS Turkey Bowl on November 20th from left to right are: Louis Hooch, Nicole Jensen, Jeanny Wharton, Jeanny's son, Marsha Squires, Anna-Mariah Kelly, Kenner Barnes, and Lindsey Forrest

College freshmen unprepared - UA President Mark Hamilton pushes for college readiness in

By Kortnie Westfall
The Sun Star, UAF

UA President Mark Hamilton is calling for the university to get proactive in making sure students are ready for college even before they graduate high school.

In a memo to the Faculty Alliance, the coalition of statewide faculty governance groups, Hamilton laid out a series of college and career readiness action steps. The Faculty Alliance, along with other faculty groups, has taken on the issue, known often as "student success," to find a statewide fix.

"The solution to improving student success in the transition from K12 to higher education requires an on-going

dialogue between K12 teachers and higher education faculty who collaboratively explore and assess student work," Hamilton said in the Oct. 18 memo.

According to the memo, two-thirds of Alaska's degree-seeking students are unprepared for college-level math and English courses. The national numbers are higher, with 70 percent of college-bound high school graduates unprepared.

While the long-term plan of action includes intensive collaboration with K12 entities, pre-college education is not the only issue addressed in student success plans. Student retention and graduation rates, admissions standards, and education quality are also on the

agenda.

Already in place at Alaska's universities are developmental-level classes intended to bring students up to the level of college level classes.

In fall 2005, according to a report, 676 freshmen and sophomores at UAF were enrolled in developmental courses. Of those, only 119 were pre-major students, those who either have a GED instead of a high school diploma, or did not meet the baccalaureate requirements. That means 557 students who were already accepted into a baccalaureate program were not ready for college-level math or English.

Many UAF students find themselves unprepared for college-level math, and some just unconfident in their math

skills. Megan Sweeney, a junior majoring in sociology and communication, said her Alaskan high school, Palmer High, "does the whole integrated math crap and I didn't know what I knew and didn't know."

Although her test scores qualified her for MATH 107, Sweeney opted to take a developmental math class.

"In high school the teacher would give us as much extra credit as we needed to pass, and I would ask him about every problem to make sure it was right," she said. "It was my first semester of college, and I was like, 'Do they do that here?'"

While Sweeney took a developmental math class because she felt unprepared, Kyle Schumann, a junior majoring in

biology, realized that he needed to drop down and brush up on his skills.

"Fall semester freshman year I was supposed to take MATH 107 but after the first day of class I knew that I was way in over my head," he said. "So I dropped that class and went into a 105 class."

Schumann then found out his test scores placed him in MATH 060. He would have to take a placement test to take MATH 105, so he decided to start with 060, which is a choice that Schumann is glad he took. His professor, Greg Owens, soon became his favorite math professor.

"He really helped me a lot, and because of him I feel pretty confident in my algebra skills," Schumann said.

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Dec 4-18, 2006
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WHAT'S GOING ON?

Dec. 4 - Dec. 18, 2006

Monday - 4

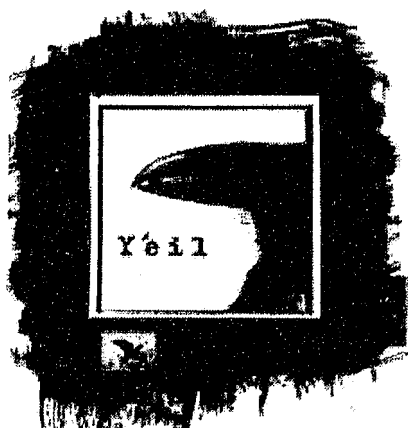
Marine Biology Club
5 p.m.
Every second Monday
Learning Center

Tuesday - 5

Arctic Winter Games Exhibit
10:00am to 4:00pm
Originally organized by the Alaska State Museum for last winter's Arctic Winter Games, this exhibit looks at the history of the games and their human dimension. A catalog accompanies the exhibit Tuesday through Saturday, Contact: (907) 465-2901



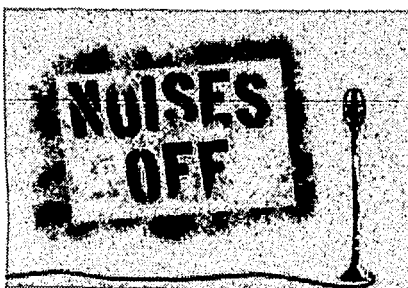
Larry McNeil, a Tlingit printmaker and photographer
Open Tuesday-Thursday from noon to 4 p.m.
The Juneau-Douglas City Museum presents an exhibit of the work of Larry McNeil, a Tlingit printmaker and photographer who was born and raised in Juneau, that examines with humor and irony the artist's place in our culture.
Admission is free



Ice Cream Social
4 p.m.
Mourant Cafeteria
Free
Contact housing.activities@uas.alaska.edu or 796-6528

Wednesday - 6

Noises Off preview performance
Evening at 7:30 p.m.
Matinees Sunday at 2 p.m.
You're an actor. You don't know your lines. You just lost a contact lens. And you open tomorrow night... A British acting company desperately tries to complete their last rehearsal on the eve of their opening performance. Everything goes wrong on stage and off in this comedy about the making of a comedy. Truly one of the funniest plays of the modern theatre.
Shows dates posted at www.perseverancetheatre.org



Friday - 8

Seven Key Points for Training the Mind, Part 1
By Astisha
Friday from 7-9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 -5 p.m.
Tlingit-Haida Vocational Training and Resource Center in the Hit S'aati (House Master Room)
Khenpo Lodro Thaye Rinpoche returns to Juneau after a visit in May to his Monastery, located in Tibet. Rinpoche is a lineage holder of many Tibetan Buddhist practices and rites and has taught for many years in Tibet and India. The presentation will include slides from his trip.
Suggested donation is \$25 for Friday's introduction, \$75 for Saturday or Sunday or \$160 for the entire weekend.
For more information contact: Bob Briggs at (907) 209-3846 or the Juneau Shambhala Center at (907) 586-6987.

Saturday - 9

Gingerbread Magic for Kids
10 a.m.
Build gingerbread houses.
Mourant Building Lake Room
Free for UASFA members, \$10 public
RSVP to alumni@uas.alaska.edu or 796-6569

Mendenhall Center Arts and Crafts Fair
For more information contact: (907) 789-0940

Sunday - 10

Mendenhall Center Arts and Crafts Fair
For more information contact: (907) 789-0940

Tuesday - 11

Finals

Used book buyback
UAS Bookstore

Wednesday - 12

Used book buyback
UAS Bookstore

Thursday - 13

Used book buyback
UAS Bookstore

Friday - 14

Used book buyback
UAS Bookstore

Saturday - 15

Used book buyback
UAS Bookstore

Sunday - 16

Mendenhall Center Arts and Crafts Fair
For more information contact: (907) 789-0940

Monday - 17

Mendenhall Center Arts and Crafts Fair
For more information contact: (907) 789-0940

Thursday - 20

Holiday Brass Concert
Chapel by the Lake, 7:30 p.m.
Benefits go to the Sitka Fine Arts Camp
Tickets are \$15 and available at Hearthside Bookstores

Sunday - 23

Winter break Begins

Tuesday - 25

Christmas Dinner Potluck for Housing Residents
3 p.m. at the Lodge

Ongoing / Recurring

Ketchikan student government
Meets Mondays, 9:45 a.m.
Ziegler Building at UAS Ketchikan

Juneau student government
Meets Fridays, 2:30 p.m.
Lake Room, Mourant Building at UAS Juneau

Sitka student government
Meets Saturdays, 1:15-2:30 p.m.
Room 106 at UAS Sitka

Writer's Workshop
7 - 9 p.m. Mondays
Downtown Public Library
Contact Kristan at 789-9489

Calendar submissions

Events entered into the UAS Campus Calendar may also be included in the Whalesong. Enter events one of three ways:

1) Faculty with access to the CMS system can follow the instructions at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/cms/content/calendar.html>

2) Fill out the Web form at <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/calendar/submit.html>

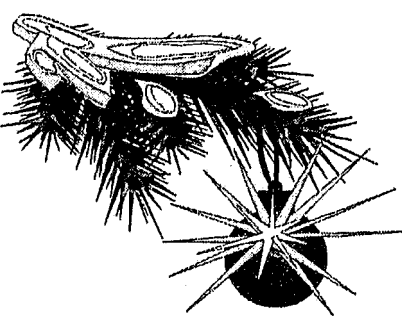
3) E-mail event details to webmaster@uas.alaska.edu.

Please include the event name, date, time and place, any cost and contact information. If there is a photo or logo associated with the event, submit as an attachment.

Non-campus events may be e-mailed directly to whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, att: Calendar. Please include the event name, date, time and place, any cost and contact information. If there is a photo or logo associated with the event, submit as an attachment.

All events will be included at the editor's discretion. To guarantee space in the Whalesong for your event, contact the Whalesong advertising manager, David Asti at jds45@uas.alaska.edu.

Happy
Holidays from
the Whalesong
Staff
The paper
will return
next semester.
Have a safe and
happy winter
break.



Nov. 20 - Dec. 4, 2006

FEATURES



Do you use the salad or the fish fork: Lindsey Forrest eats using the correct manners of the evening.

Students learn to watch their manners

By David Asti
Whalesong

On Nov. 8, the lake room in the Mourant Building was the site of the 4th annual Etiquette Dinner, sponsored by the Student Alumni Association (SAA).

Chancellor Pugh introduced Lynne Johnson of the SAA as the night's hostess to a group of 40.

Each of the seven courses was served following a break down of the correct utensil to use and questions about spills, eating with

your hands and how to politely get rid of bones from your mouth.

"(The) Etiquette Dinner does more than just teach how to eat properly in a formal setting. The dinner allows students to network with others in their major or field of study," Johnson said.

Guests who work in government offices sat with students involved in Student Government. Other guests from banks, like Aaron Leiber from First Bank, sat with students majoring in business.

The evening was also a learning experience for the dining services staff that had to serve the seven course meal over the span of three hours.

Guests dined on tomato Florentine soup, shrimp cocktail, salad, lemon sorbet, pasta and a main dish of glazed Cornish

game hen with asparagus. The game hen was served on the bone, providing the attendees with plenty of practice with the manners needed while eating something messy without their hands.

Guests left the dinner thanking the organizer Keni Campbell, of the SAA.

- Lynne Johnson

Better than T.V. - Long winter nights bring aurora storms that connect Alaskans

By Laureli Kinneen
The Sun Star, UAF

The next time you see the aurora, just remember others across the world are watching the same storm.

Two people separated by vast distance can gaze up at the same moon. Two people separated by distance can look up and see the same aurora storm, but not necessarily the same activity.

"The moon is far enough out, so you can see the same thing," said Charles Deehr, professor emeritus of space physics and aeronomy at the Geophysical Institute. "The aurora is closer, 100 kilometers up."

If someone in Nome is looking to the eastern sky at the aurora, someone in Fairbanks looking to the western sky will see the same activity, according to Deehr.

"Someone in Nome is not going to see the same view we see here in

Fairbanks," Deehr said. "The activity people see occurs simultaneously in a circle."

A person in Fairbanks will see one small section of the aurora, while a person in Nome sees a different section.

Alaska is large, spanning 570,374 square miles. But the state is also a relatively small community with roughly 655,435 people. Connections are everywhere.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, for example, aurora watchers found themselves connected to a slough of people around the state who saw the same aurora storm.

"Auroral activity will be active," the Geophysical Institute's aurora forecast Web site said that day. "Weather permitting, active auroral displays will be visible overhead from Barrow to Anchorage and Juneau, and visible low on the horizon from King Salmon, Prince Rupert, Bismark and Montreal."

On the outskirts of Nome, Rick

Anderson was at his house on Banner Creek, a 20-minute drive from town. The aircraft mechanic said the lights appeared as an arch to the northeast of the house. They were green with not much movement.

"It wasn't a real spectacular type thing, but it was still neat," he said.

Pete Robirds was musing with his eight dogs near Shungnak, an Interior village in the Northwest Arctic when he and another teacher saw the lights.

"We saw them dancing," he said. "They were green and arched toward the north with more movement to the west."

The spectacle Robirds caught while on his sled was not just visual.

"We heard some kids whistling when we got back to town," Robirds said. "I guess they think the lights will move more if they whistle to them."

In Shishmaref, a coastal community on the Seward Peninsula, the school's

sports name is the Northern Lights. The school colors are green and white, signifying the color dominant in the aurora. James Kakoona, a 16-year-old high school junior was driving around on his four-wheeler in Shishmaref when the northern lights caught his eye.

"They were moving around and they were green," he said. "They were nice and long, but a little dim."

Pam Laker, a Fairbanks dog musher, chicken farmer, retired electrician and stay-at-home mom, said she also saw the northern lights that Saturday.

"They were green," she said. "It was a little too bright out to see them real well."

Laker and her husband have been talking to her 4-year-old son about the northern lights and that night gave them a good visual.

"The moon was a little too bright, but there was still a pretty good plume," she said.

Perhaps the next time Pam is out with her family, they can relay to their son that other people across the state are seeing the same storm.

For the Aurora forecast please visit:

www.gedds.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast/

Aurora alerts forum sightings, photos, and discussion at:

www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraAlerts/





UA In Brief

UAF student still missing

A UAF student has been reported missing after visiting a local bar. Will Bergeson, 20, was last seen in the vicinity of the Midnight Mine in the early morning hours of Nov. 11.

Family members reported him missing on Nov. 12 and have posted fliers in hopes of gaining information regarding his whereabouts, but police say he might be dead.

"We're now treating it more as a recovery than a rescue," said Lt. Dusty Johnson of the Fairbanks Police Department. "Hopefully we'll be proven wrong."

Bergeson, who had been enrolled at UAF since 2004 and is listed as a maintenance technology major, was last heard from by his girlfriend, Robin Mullican at 2:46 a.m. Johnson said. He may have also received a call at 2:53 a.m., though police aren't certain, he said.

"It's like he's dropped off the face of the earth," Johnson said.

Bergeson and his friends started at the Midnight Mine and then went to Kodiak Jack's, Mullican said. He had a fake ID, she said. They then returned to the Mine, but when his friends got in their cars, he didn't.

Bergeson's car was found parked in front of a friend's house exactly where he left it when he was last heard from. Dogs were sent out but found no trace of Bergeson.

Police say it is possible Bergeson fell into the Chena River, which lies a short distance from the Midnight Mine. Nolan added he was continuing his investigation.

Bergeson remains missing. No outgoing calls have been reported on his cell phone and his credit cards haven't been used. Police aren't optimistic, especially since the temperature has been dropping and he has been missing for over two weeks.

Police are asking anyone with information to call Detective Nolan at (907) 450-6551.

- Laura Lemire, Whalesong

Campus closes due to heavy snowfall

The UAS campus canceled afternoon classes on Nov. 29, giving students a partial snow day.

All classes after 2 p.m. were canceled. This is the second time that the university has shut down because of heavy snowfall.

One of the main reasons for the cancellation was the difficulty in traveling through the snow on unplowed roads. Many students were late to morning classes because buses were running late all morning.

Also, the University has had trouble keeping up with snow removal on sidewalks and parking lots.

Vienna has more to offer than sausages

By Gernot Bucheli
Whalesong

Each day that I am here in Vienna, I am experiencing Vienna.

The movie Goodwill Hunting is about a young man who did not leave Boston. He knew about everything by reading books, but he did not experience this knowledge.

You could just read about Vienna in a book or on-line, but you will not know what the air smells like, what the ice cream taste like, or what the sounds of Vienna give. What I am about to share is what I have experienced — the smells, tastes and sounds.

I arrived here in Vienna, Austria on Sept. 15. This is the first time I met all the students involved in the AHA- Vienna program and some of the professors. The students come from mostly Michigan and the northwest schools. There are 16 students total, eight female and eight male; I am the oldest.

Students stay in host family homes. The families live in apartment buildings in different districts around Vienna. I live in district three with another student, Tom. He and I had dinner with the host family as an ice breaker and quickly got to know one another.

The teachers are mostly from Austria, there is one from Washington State. The courses range from government politics to European history, seven classes in all. I did take all of them, but had to drop one class because the load was too much for me. Naturally, all the courses appealed to me.

The first couple of days were great. We have had so many excursions in, around and outside of Vienna and one in Poland as well.

On the second day in Vienna, Dr. Heller, the site director in Vienna, took us around the heart of Vienna in District One. She showed us places we could visit, places to eat, historic buildings and how to get around using various means of public transportation.

The next weekend we went on an excursion to Klosternburg Monastery, which is just outside

You could just read about Vienna in a book or on-line, but you will not know what the air smells like, what the ice cream taste like, or what the sounds of Vienna give.

- Gernot Bucheli

Vienna. The monastery, which overlooks Vienna, was built in 1113 by Margrave Leopold III and construction continued until 1740. It is famous for different styles of architecture, Augustinian Canons, Late-Gothic paintings and medieval sculptures.

We also went to Rosenberg, which is a couple hours drive from Vienna. In Rosenberg, there is a Renaissance Castle that was built in 1681. Not only is it famous for the castle itself, but it is also known for a type of hunting that uses birds like hawks, eagles, owls and buzzards. The demonstrations using these trained birds were fascinating.

The excursions were for our own benefit as well as for class. Each of

the courses provided an excursion to different places according to the study. For the international organizational course, we went to the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), located in Vienna, which represents the realization of President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" speech to the UN General Assembly in 1953.

For Roman Civilization, the excursions taken were to museums and even to Roman ruins, Vienna is founded on an old Roman fortified city called Vinbodona along the Danube River.

For the medieval class, we visited museums as well but we also went to Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland. Talk about an experience.

Krakow has a sense of pride in the air, it was the capital of Poland, and its people defeated the Ottoman invasion; Pope John Paul II came from Krakow. Krakow still carries that pride. It was occupied twice by other nations — Germany to begin WWII and the former Soviet Union after WWII.

Auschwitz holds a slice of history from Nazi Germany; it is the site of a former concentration camp where people were herded into crematories and executed for racial cleansing, genocide.

Located in the heart of Europe, Vienna is a great place to study history and world politics. It is near the former Iron Curtain countries, hours from Prague, the Czech Republic and Budapest, and hours to Munich, Germany. It is also an overnight train ride to Rome.

Not only is Vienna a great place to study history, but it is also a great place to experience culture. The culture of this area is outside my home everyday.



Editor: Laura Lemire

Ad Manager: David Asti

Production Manager: Lexa Meyer

Staff Writer: John Sonin

Photographers: Josh Christie, Will Flynn, Cody Bennett

Copy editor: Sophie Stradley

Adviser: Kristan Hutchison

Web Design: Dave Klein, John French

Printing: Juneau Empire

E-mail: whalesong@uas.alaska.edu

Mail: The Whalesong

11120 Glacier Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Newsroom: 102 Mourant Bldg.

Staff meetings - 7 p.m. Thursday.

Office hours - all day Tuesday.

Phone: (907) 796-6434

Fax: (907) 796-6399

Since 1981 The Whalesong has been the student newspaper for the University of Alaska Southeast. Published every other Monday during the semester, it is a free publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members at the three UAS campuses — Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka.

As a student publication, the Whalesong encourages participation and contributions from students. Anyone interested in contributing to the Whalesong can contact the editor or adviser.

The Whalesong strives to inform readers on news pertinent to the college community and to serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas. The staff of The Whalesong values accuracy. If an error is printed in the Whalesong, please notify the staff so it can be corrected. The Whalesong also values freedom of expression and encourages reader response through letters to the editor. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).



Airline alienation: Transportation out of Juneau might leave you financially strapped

By Laura Lemire

My one-way ticket out of Vermont was purchased months in advance for \$502, before tax.

My roommate paid around \$700 round-trip from Connecticut for a semester at UAS; she booked her flight in April. To fly across country can be as cheap as \$200, the flight from SeaTac to Juneau jacks up the price.

These prices shocked my roommate because she had just returned from a semester abroad in Spain and flying between countries in Europe is chump change. A trip from Spain to London costs around 50 Euro. Multiply this by 1.3 for the conversion to the America dollar. They charge extra for luggage, but you can get away with a single carry-on for a weekend trip.

Shortly before I transferred to UAS, I was informed that Juneau didn't have road systems like the lower 48 did. I mistook this statement, imagining that when I arrived, there would be a strip of road and a bunch of dirt paths. Now that I am here, I realize what my friend meant: there is no way to drive directly out of Juneau. The two methods of exodus are via water and air. You can take the ferry to Skagway and hop on the road to Canada or you can fly out.

For two adults in a non-oversized vehicle, a trip from Juneau to Skagway can cost roughly \$242 round-trip without a discount. Compare that to the cost of shipping a car on a barge from Seattle, which is \$600 according to a friend who recently had his new Subaru Legacy shipped to Juneau.

With the cost of gas, driving back to Vermont would be under the cost of a plane ticket; this is

figuring I sleep in my car. It would probably take a week or so to drive across the width of the entire continent.

It would take \$1400 for me to fly home for a good friend's wedding, booking a round-trip flight, and a little over \$800 if I bargain shopped, mix-matching flights with layovers of up to a day in Seattle. My friend's wedding in Massachusetts is on Dec. 30, this date falls within the holiday season. Prices tend to be on the higher side to fly out during the holidays, a very high traffic time of the year.

Alaska Air is the only airline that flies to Alaska. They have no competitor to rival prices, leaving them with a monopoly over the airways, a monopoly that allows price inflation. Aren't monopolies illegal?

As a college student, I know that paying for education is expensive and school affords little time for work. Cheap food became my diet and its own food group during freshman year. Top Ramen Noodles, the universal savior for students that pay for college out of their own pocket, without them, students across America would go hungry.

Moving to Alaska, I am just as poor of a student now as I was in Vermont. The difference is that home is 6,000 miles away.

I can't afford to fly home during the holiday season. The lack of affordable transportation out of Juneau is something that startles me. With talks about a road to Skagway leading to nothing but research and more talks, I am aghast at the city's inaction.

Perhaps if Alaska Airlines can put aside their greed for green, they might offer a discounted price to struggling, out-of-state students who don't have the income to afford a way out.

The Whalesong staff would like to take a moment to reflect on this fall's issues as the semester winds down to a close.

We have put forth all of our effort to make the publication better and to steer it away from the direction it had waned toward in previous years. We know our efforts have not been in vain, many of the students and faculty have commented on the newsworthy material contained within recent issues of the paper. We feel that a college paper should report on issues that concern the students and faculty on campus as well as subjects that reflect student interest.

After long nights spent in the office, we have managed to put the paper out on time and we haven't missed an issue yet. Minor errors may have escaped our eyes along the way, but this just means we have more to improve on.

We would like to thank this semester's faculty advisor, Kristan Hutchison. With an impressive background in journalism, Kristan is really the master surgeon behind the Whalesong's facelift. With dedication and devotion, she put in long hours during the paper's rebirth and coached our staff reporters along the way. We don't know what we would have done without her and she will be missed when she leaves for California this February.

We would also like to take a moment to say thank you to all the readers and to encourage students and faculty members to get involved with the Whalesong.

-Whalesong Staff

Whalesong Student Poll

What do you think of the job facilities are doing as far as snow removal is concerned?



Nicole Jensen: "I think they're doing a pretty good job of staying on top of it!"



Alicia Hughes-Skandas: "I think they did a pretty good job. I especially like the snow (capped) mountains!"



Avery Beal: "They're doing fine for me; I got a four-wheel drive truck."



Louis Hoock: "They could orient the snow for better sledding."

REPORT FOR THE WHALESONG

EARN 3 CREDITS

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PHOTOGRAPHERS

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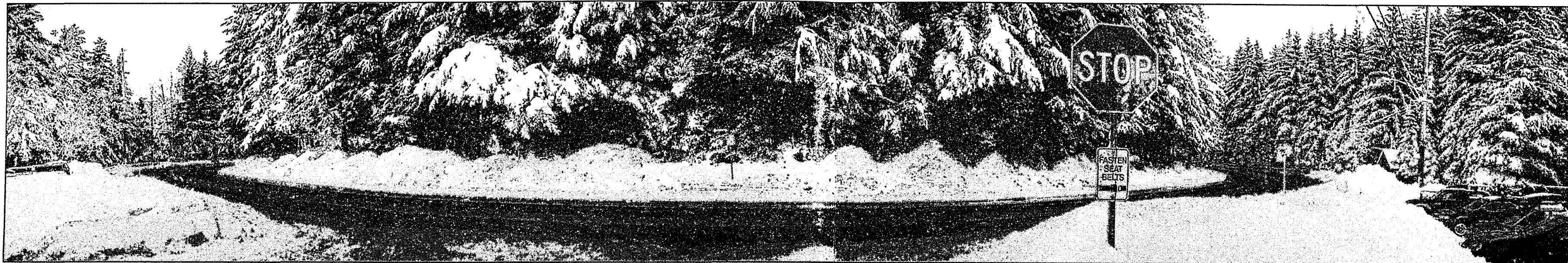
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NEWSPAPER PRACTICUM



SHADES OF THINGS TO COME: THE UAS CAMPUS IS MAKING SOME BIG CHANGES IN 2007



The corner from hell: a view from the entrance to the Anderson Building showing the blind corner that UAS students must negotiate by car and on foot on Glacier Highway.

Photo By David Asti

Bridge over a troubled road: A sky bridge to Anderson will make it safe for students

By David Asti
Whalesong

The school has approved a plan to construct a million dollar sky bridge from the Noyes Pavilion over Glacier Highway, which will connect with the top of the Anderson building.

According to the 2003 University of Alaska Southeast Campus Facilities Master Plan, "There are pedestrian/vehicular conflicts in multiple areas on campus. The most significant area involves crossing Glacier Highway to access the Anderson Building."

If you frequent the Anderson building from the main campus you know how hard it is to cross the street at the sharp curve in front of the Chemistry and Biological

Sciences building.

"There have been numerous times where I was forced to walk in the street because the sidewalk was not plowed. I am lucky that I am not street pizza," said Lexa Meyer, marine biology.

The sky bridge will have a lighted walkway and be accessible to students with disabilities by an elevator at the Anderson side of the bridge and a

progressing slope at the pavilions side.

"This is the idea I hear so far," said Lindsey Forrest of the Student Safety Committee and Vice President of Student Government.

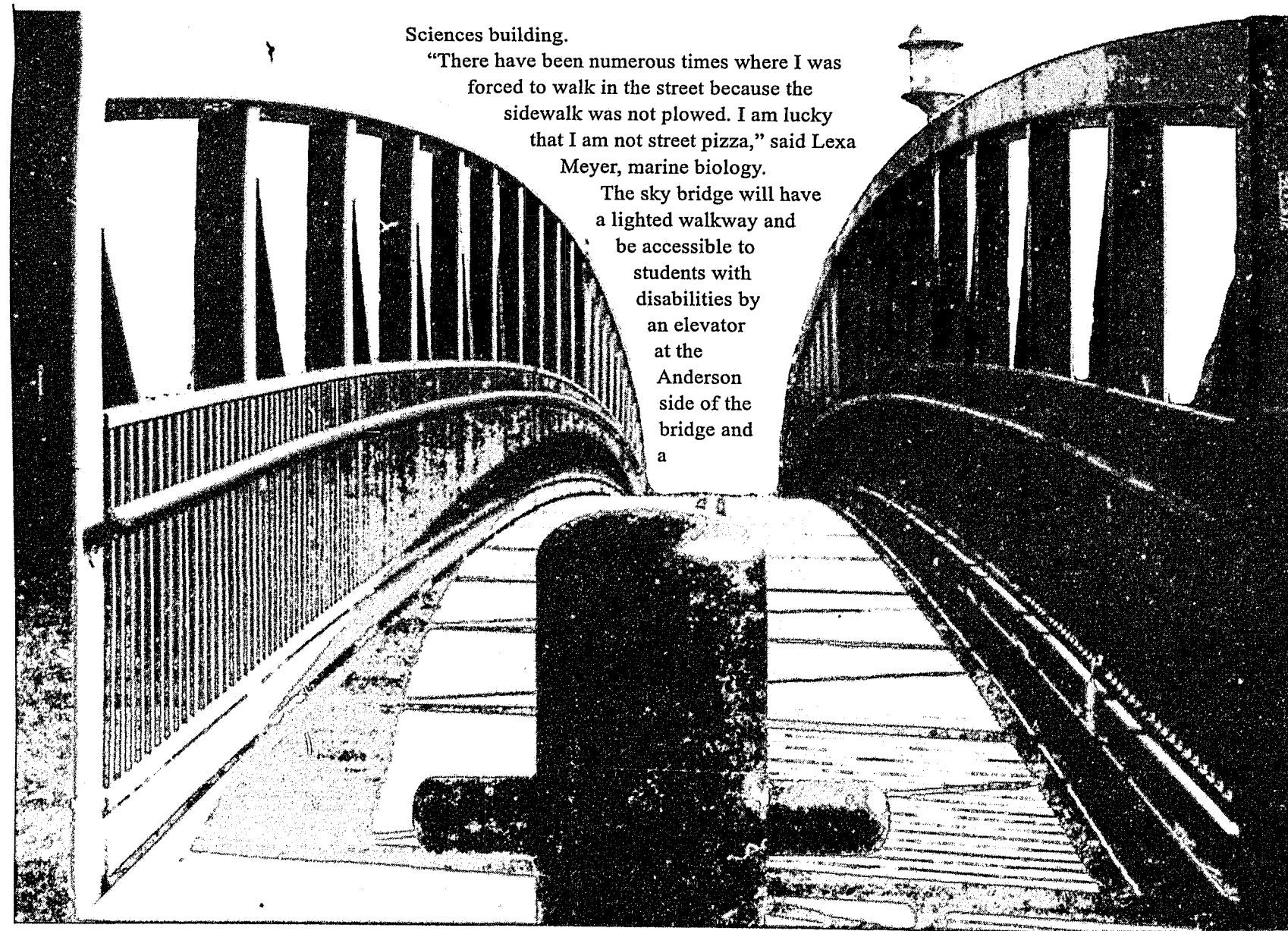
Forrest also says that the Alaska Department of Transportation is going to take out the hard curve at some point in the future. The road construction might have an impact on when our sky bridge can be built.

"Technically they could start building (the bridge) now, the money is there," Forrest said.

If the project started immediately, the bridge would be built by Dec. 2007. It is unclear when construction will start, but the sky bridge to the Anderson Building will definitely become a reality.

There are other notable, dangerous street crossings for students such as the Mendenhall Loop Road accessing the SAC Building and student housing, along with other segments of Glacier Highway where there is no walkway to be found.

These crossings will be addressed in the future.



Mourant will never be the same

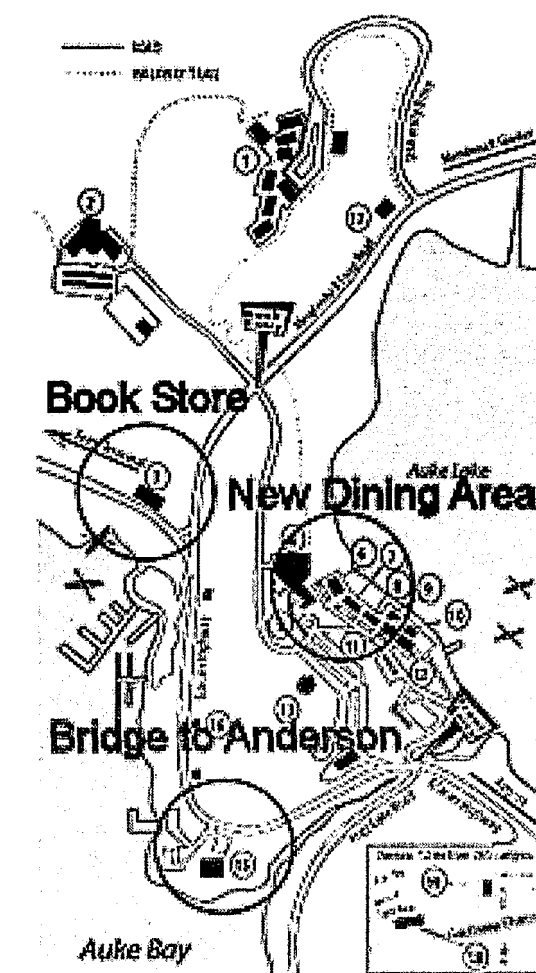
By David Asti
Whalesong

The Mourant building will undergo a transformation that will change the layout of the UAS campus.

The changes to be made on the top floor of the Mourant building are caused by the outsourcing of the dining services to either Aramark or Sodexo.

The student bookstore, located on the bottom floor of the Mourant Building is to move to the Student Activities Center (SAC), which is across from DeHarts on Glacier Highway. The SAC was the old dance hall and workout gym before the new recreation center was built in 2005, in conjunction with the National Guard.

The SAC will be remodeled to handle the student activities offices as well as the book store while the Mourant Building will be completely remodeled for a new dining services cafeteria and kitchen and will also have offices. The offices will be located on the bottom floor.



The new face of UAS: a map depicting the areas to be changed in the proposed remodel projects.

The Whalesong room and Student Government will move across the bottom floor of the building to provide office space for the Peer Support Office, currently located in the lodge, and the Student Resource Center, which can be found in the Whitehead Building. The Native and Rural Student Center will also be moved from the Whitehead Building to the bottom of the Mourant Building.

Parts of the new Mourant building will still be accessible for Student Government and Whalesong students, just not where the Student Resource Center's student files can be accessed.

"Students will not be able to get through the areas of confidentiality," said Lindsey Forrest, Vice President of Student Government.

The current plans aren't written in concrete. "Different powers are butting heads about what to change with the remodeling," said a student close to the decision who spoke on a condition of anonymity.

The only certainty can be found in saying that the campus will have a completely different look.

Former Mayor makes transition to student life

By David Asti
Whalesong

Hans Schaeffer, born in Anchorage, has lived in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan and was mayor of Kobuk before coming to UAS this fall.

Schaeffer has extensive experience in the political realm and has chosen to continue this in UAS' Student Government. "I love to be in the political aspect of things in a way that it keeps me involved," Schaeffer said.

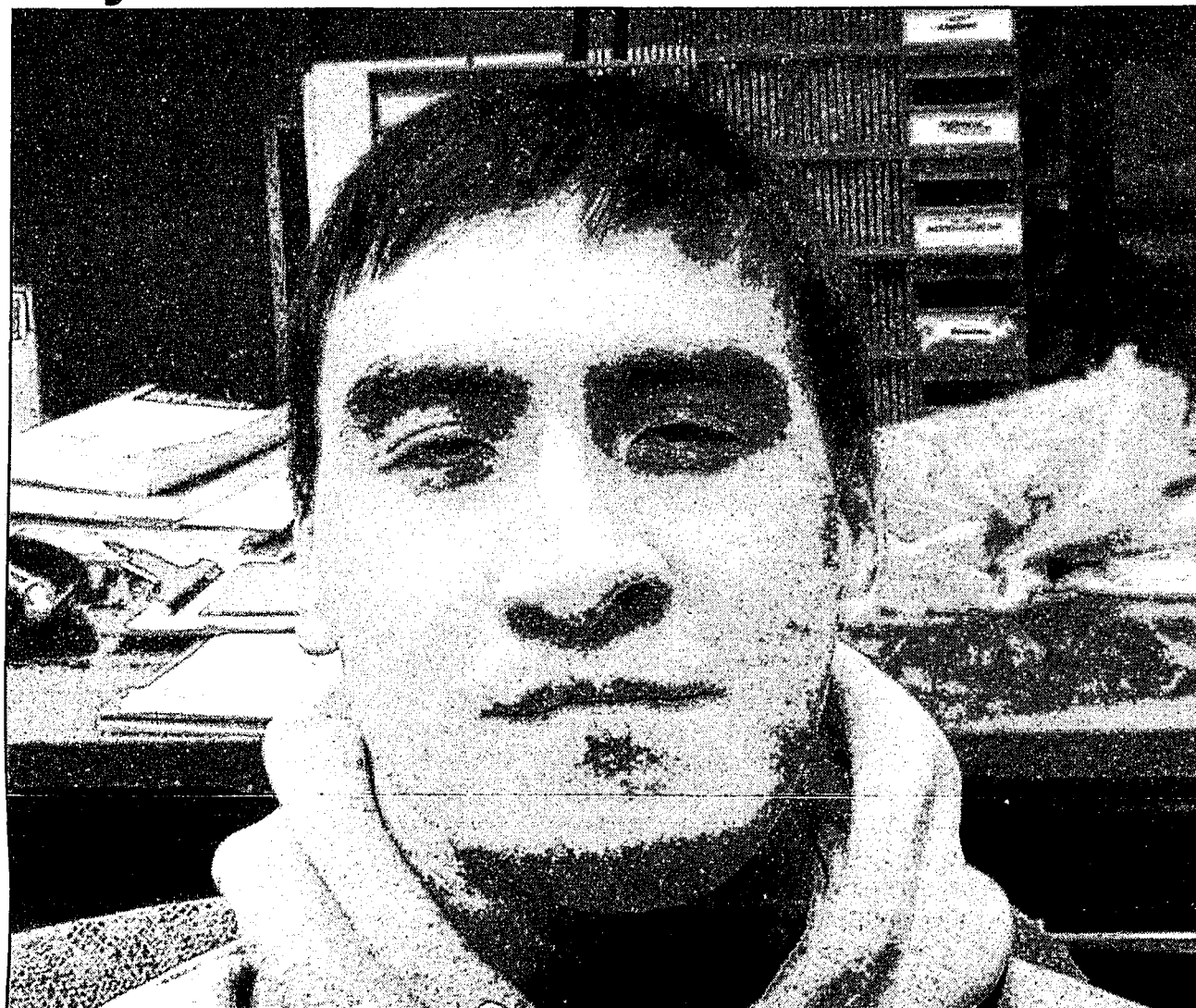
He currently sits as chair of the Constitutional Committee and is pro tempore for the Student Senate.

Schaeffer is also involved in the Rules and Finance Committee and is treasurer of Community Council. His major is language arts and communications.

Schaeffer was mayor of Kobuk, Alaska in 2004. Kobuk, located just below the Arctic Circle, is in the Northwest Arctic Borough and is home to about 120.

Before becoming mayor, Schaeffer worked at the only grocery store in Kobuk, which was owned by his mother. "I was working for my parents at the time and naturally I see everybody in the community and elections (were) coming up. I got a lot of people that said 'you should run,'" Schaeffer said.

Schaeffer talked about politics and social issues in the community while working at the store. "I thought I would put my name on the ballot and see how it goes,"



Working hard: Hans Schaeffer working late in the Student Government office.

Photo by David Asti

"I was some punk, 23-year-old kid who thinks that he's going to make a difference in the world,"

- Hans Schaeffer

Schaeffer said.

He ran against a 65-year-old woman who had been mayor years earlier and was head of the Tribal Council in the town during the election. Schaeffer won by a landslide. "I was some punk, 23-year-old kid who thinks that he's going to make a difference in the world," Schaeffer said.

Schaeffer is still involved with the Kobuk government as the secretary of the Tribe. He meets with leaders in Kobuk by telephone conference. Schaeffer has a two more years left as secretary while he continues school.

"I will be at UAS until I graduate. I love it here," Schaeffer said. This is his first term.

"Going to UAS is like coming back to good memories," Schaeffer said. "There is a good relationship between professors and students. They have the time to sit down and talk," Schaeffer said.

He does not aspire to be president of UAS student government. "As (president) you have a lot of disadvantages," Schaeffer said.

He states that he has more power as a senator or counsel member than the president. "It would serve me better to continue to be a senator," Schaeffer said.

After graduating UAS, Schaeffer hopes to continue on to law school, focusing on environmental law. "I see a great need in protecting our environment here in Alaska," Schaeffer said.

Schaeffer hints at one day becoming a senator for the state of Alaska.

The Klondike Road Relay has rewards for all who participate

By John S. Sonin
Whalesong

Every year in mid-September, respiratory-adventurers gather together to run the exhausting 110-mile Klondike Road Relay.

Liz Gifford, a UAS student nearing completion of her MAT candidacy, was among the participants this year. "We all trained hard," Gifford said of her team, dubbed the Juneau Beer Drinkers Association (JBDA), and "it was a great bonding experience."

The marathon begins in Skagway and crosses the Coastal Mountains into British Columbia via the White Pass route. From there, it follows the old Chilkoot Trail of the Gold Rush era, ending in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

This year Gifford, along with nine of her friends, placed 75th out of 127 teams.

The road relay is organized into 10

legs over the 110-mile course, ergo, the 10-member team. At a cost of roughly \$400, the entry fee is bearable for struggling college students when split between team members.

Though contributing to the team spirit, two of the team didn't run due to personal circumstances, because of this, two of the members of the JBDA team were forced to run an extra leg each.

With distances of each leg varying from 5.6 to 15.9 miles and elevations increasing from sea level to 6,000 feet, the strengthened cardio-endurance regimen enabled the JBDA to compete despite the shortcoming.

Gifford was not one of the lucky ones to run two legs. Her portion, 13.9 miles, was grueling in its own right.

The annual "Trail of 98" relay has morphed in the last 24 years from its origins as a beer-drinkers extracurricular activity into an Olympic-caliber marathon. Early Participants

were even known to re-hydrate with fermented spirits before the marathon had gotten very serious.

This year's winners were a squad from Anchorage called "Team Suburu." They completed the 110-mile run in 10 hours, 30 minutes and one second, outrunning last year's winners, the "Smokin' Ol Geezers" of Juneau, who placed second by just about an hour in this year's relay.

Another team out of Juneau had, until recently, set the relay record in 1990 at 11 hours, 16 minutes and 28 seconds.

Gifford said they all "look forward to running (again) next year."

Now that Ben Lyman, a home brewer from the JBDA team created a special fermented concoction he named "Road Runners Cider," it sounds as though they'll be juiced for the 25th Annual Klondike "Trail of 98" International Road Relay.



Photo by John Sonin

Proud member of the Juneau Beer Drinkers Association: part-time runner Liz Gifford outside on campus.

Spelunking gives UAS students a unique academic opportunity

By John S. Sonin
Whalesong

With all the glaciers flowing and retreating around campus and across the state, Louis Hoock, the creator of the UAS Zymurgy Club, has taken on another more academically accommodating pursuit as student spelunker and leader of the UAS Caving Club.

A famous caver named Bill Stone said in a lecture in Mexico, "The difference between an adventure and a scientific expedition is the amount of information you bring back," according to Hoock.

With advisement from David Love, Kevin Allred, Cathy Connor, Dan Monteith and Matt Heavner of Glacier Grotto, a study group that is working on grants from the National Speleological Society, and KARST, a Yugoslavian-born study group exploring "dissolvable rock," the Caving Club has enlisted some well-groomed guidance.

With the Grotto expecting to

explore and map the ice caves of St Elias National Park and Prince of Whales Island next summer, some of the more inspired club members may accompany graduate students and scientists on expeditions to and through these limestone formations.

Essentially the Caving Club "will be teaching undergraduates in a non-classroom environment the necessary technical skills to negotiate through caves such as how to do research and cave conservation," said Monteith, a UAS Professor of Anthropology and an esteemed spelunker.

Monteith asserted that cave conservation is crucial to cave exploration. This was recently driven home by the discovery of a bear claw imprint in a cave on Prince of Whales catalogued to be over three-thousand years old. "Imagine if the cave had been visited often in that time," Monteith said.

Not only do they "expect to record the geological formations (of these caves), but their paleonto-

logical and archeological history's (as well)," said Cathy Connor, UAS Associate Professor of Physics and fellow academic advisor. Connor, who is the geologist advising the spelunkers, says there will be "ample opportunities for exploration and study."

Though approaching the surveys from a physics angle, Matt Heavner, Assistant Professor of Physics, has a biological aspect of the explorations he will be analyzing. The caves create opportune moments to research mammalian inhabitants, bats, and their sonar sensing abilities. Such a study has benefits useful to both fields of research.

Monteith says the club has plans in the making to visit and explore some of those limestone caverns in St Elias National Park and on Prince of Whales Island next summer.

Hoock has attained "critical mass" with Caving Club membership, Monteith said. Monteith will

be advising with Connor to help spearhead that "academic accommodation."

Hoock expects the Club will have some exciting academic interests to explore.

To explore, discover and learn about caves in Alaska contact:

Advisor: Daniel Monteith
kfdbm@uas.alaska.edu Phone: 796-6413

Cathy Connor
Cathy.connor@uas.alaska.edu Phone: 796-6293

Student Advisor: Louis Hoock
jslh8@uas.alaska.edu

Glacier Grotto: David Love
david_love@fishgame.state.ak.us
Phone: 796-6413



**Thursdays
5:30 - 8:30**

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NEWSPAPER PRACTICUM

Review of Noises Off: Noises Off leaves nothing on

By Laura Lemire
Whalesong

A voice booms from somewhere behind the audience, giving stage directions to a disoriented Dotty Otley, played by Sara Walsanen.

"You take the sardines," the voice directs Otley, who has assumed the role of Mrs. Clackett on stage. The sardines themselves provide some comic relief.

"Noises Off" gives audiences a unique perspective and a chuckle at the sordid lives of a traveling group of performers that become a dysfunctional group by the end of the play.

The comedy, written by Michael Frayn and hosted by the Perseverance Theatre, takes place in the living room of the Brent's country home.

Directed by Keith Baxter, the cast moved through their roles expertly and hit their lines with impeccable timing.

The audience learns that the mysterious voice belongs to Flordelino Lagundino, who plays the director of the play, Tim Allgood.

The play within a play is titled "Nothing On," aptly so because many of the characters are left exposed both literally and figuratively.

Roger Tramplemain, a co-

worker of Mr. Brent's, played by Ryan Conarro, arrives with the knowledge that Mr. Brent is out of town and the maid has the afternoon off. When he enters, he is surprised by the presence of Clackett.

Trailing behind him is a woman named Vicki, played by Kylie Manning. Vicki bumbles around absent-mindedly; she personifies the dumb blonde stereotype as she flitters about.

As the story unfolds, the situation becomes messier when Mr. and Mrs. Brent, played by Patrick and Joyce Perry Moore, return from Spain early. Mr. Brent is very concerned about tax evasion and possible prosecution.

The events that transpire between the characters on stage are a whirlwind of confusion as they exit and leave the living room to separate rooms in the house. Crew members from behind the stage also contribute to the chaos that surrounds the production.

The time and effort put into the production is visible in the coordination of the characters' numerous entries and exits.

Complicating matters further, a burglar, Charlie Cardwell, breaks into the house. Later in the play when the characters are faced with each other in the living room, they all discover



Do you need a hand with that: Ryan Conarro (Garry LeJeune/Roger Tramplemain) and Kylie Manning (Brooke Ashton/Vicki) in a scene from "Noises Off."

that there are far more people in the house than they had thought.

Act 2 gives the audience a backstage pass. The production is up and running but after the director's secrets are exposed in Act 1, his feelings about the production become clearer. The

cast has begun to unravel at this point and the relationships between the cast members destroy any hope of success.

The last act brings the play full circle and leaves the production in shambles. Nothing is going right but the slap stick humor

incorporated into the last two acts is more than entertaining.

Though the actors might be putting on a play gone wrong, they nail their performance and keep the audience laughing.

The performance runs from now until Dec. 10.

Photo By: David J. Sheakley / Juneau Empire

Dec. 4 - Dec. 18, 2006

For more information, email: uasdcn@gmail.com

UAS students:
every saturday night
basketball, 7-8:30
volleyball, 8:30-10pm
(at the ice center)



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CLASSIFIED ADS

Employment

If you are looking to make some extra money, seeking a flexible work schedule or enjoy working with children or teens, a job with the Juneau School District might be just what you are looking for.

Substitutes are needed and the Juneau School District is offering a starting salary of \$10.55 an hour and hours can be worked around individual class schedules.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply. Applications can be obtained at 811 12th Street Contact: (907) 523-1713

Misc.

Need Money For Christmas? Let me sell for you on my Alaska Woman eBay Store. Give me your unused items and I'll take care of the rest. No Sale, No Fee. View my listings at: stores.ebay.com/Alaska-Woman. Contact Cristina: Alaska_Woman@pci.net or 790-3175

Whalesong classifieds are free to students. Everyone else gets the first classified free, then pays \$5 for subsequent classifieds. E-mail classifieds to whalesong@uas.alaska.edu or fax to 796-6399 or drop off for the Whalesong in the basement of the Maurant Building.

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Sudoku Answers From
Last Whalesong

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Sudoku

Answers in next
Whalesong

Public service announcement: dish rack man's best friend

By Andrew Hall
Whalesong

My cabinets are barren and my counter space is wet and cluttered. On both sides of my sink, I display the ignorant mistake made by so many of us Americans: dish racks. A saucepan takes up one-third of an entire rack, leaving only small holes in which to pile my silverware. Dishes are like falling dominos frozen in time, wait-

ing to be used and replaced in the endless drama of dirty and clean. They never find their proper home, and I pity them for this. Why doesn't he just dry them and put them away? You're thinking. It seems simple; I agree. However, there is an easier way.

Those of you who own dishwashers can stop smiling because I'm not talking about your Jet-Dry Whirlpool or what ever. What I'm talking about is an invention brought to us by the

same logical Scandinavians that brought us Saunas and Ikea: a combination cabinet-dish rack.

Here's how it goes:

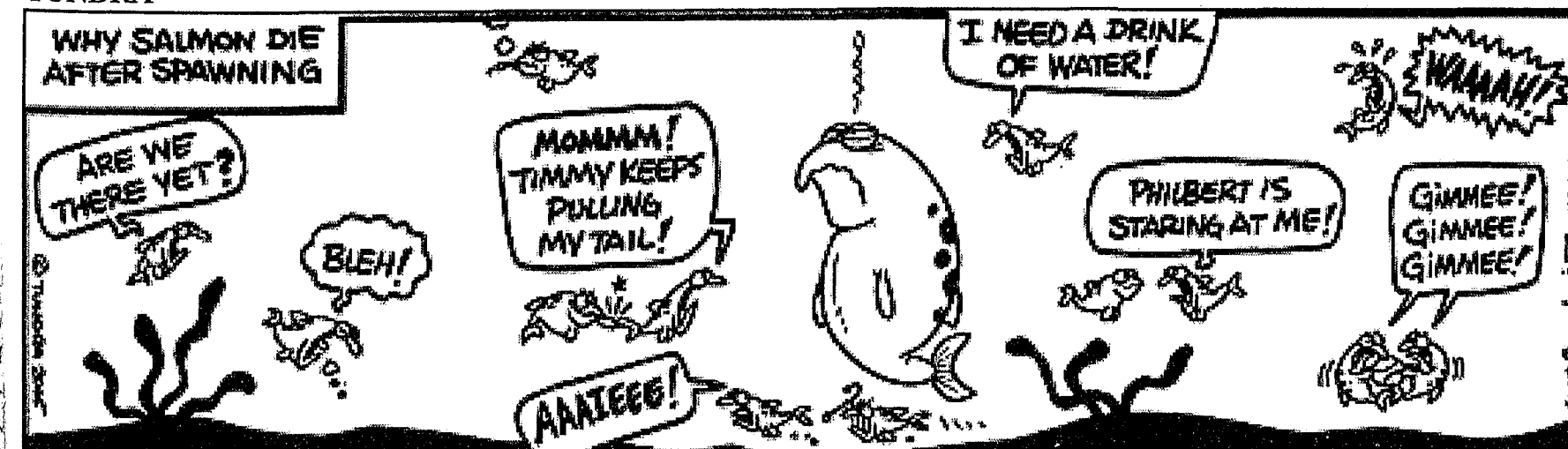
The mandatory requirement is that your cabinet-dish rack must be over the sink, this is the only catch. After that it's as simple as the Finnish flag. Imagine all the cabinets above your sink having rack-like bottoms. The horizontal panels, on which your plates and such would normally rest,

are replaced with a rack they can fit into. One can have as many levels to their cabinet-dish rack because all the dripping eventually ends up in the sink. Now you have eliminated the middle man (dish rack) and no longer have to have the need for a dish towel. Trust me; it's truly simple and amazing.

Being the pioneers of easy living, I'm confused as to why we, as Americans, haven't adopted this idea.

Maybe we do have windows above the sink on which to cool our Apple pies, but seriously, washing some dishes and putting them directly in the cabinet is about the coolest thing since hover boards. (Who can forget Back to the Future II, Biff Tannen, and Marty McFly?) To anyone who reads this announcement, I suggest you go home and cut out the bottoms of your cabinetry as soon as possible.

TUNDRA





Eaglecrest open ahead of schedule

EAGLECREST from page 1

won't be like the last. "I went off into the powder and it's nearly champagne powder. It's Rocky Mountain-like."

"It's fantastic even if it is just Hooter," Carnanhan said. "It gets a lot of the younger kids out. I think that the early opening is really going to spur people to get there stuff out, dust it off and get ready for the season."

Carnanhan, who learned to ski in upstate New York and has traveled the Mountain West, has been skiing Eaglecrest since he moved to Juneau in 2003.

Carnanhan likes the variety of runs offered at the mountain and enjoys the small-town atmosphere of Eaglecrest.

"I was out here when we had a snow day on Wednesday and they were just going full-tilt to get the mountain ready. I really appreciate the effort of

Kirk Duncan and the crew here and everybody just kicking it into high gear to get it open," Carnanhan said.

To open Ptarmigan, the mountain needs 60 inches of packed base versus the 36 inches they had on opening day.

"This storm brought in a lot of light snow; it didn't have a lot of moisture to it," Clough said. "When it goes down, it compacts down to not very much base. It may look like 12 inches, but then it compacts down to about 6 inches."

Clough remains confident about the way things are going with the weather report for the night calling for 24 inches of snow. The density of the snow determines how much base it will pack down to.

Eaglecrest is in the process of finalizing construction plans on a mid-mountain chair lift that will

start just below the top of Hooter and go up the east side of the mountain.

"We've seen the snow levels creep up the mountain a little bit," Plough said. "That's one of our reasons for the mid-mountain chair. Quite often, the 1,500-foot level seems to be where we have our snow line."

With the new chair, the mountain will have more access to early snow and this might mean an earlier start to the season. Construction on the lift will begin this summer.

"(I would) encourage everybody to come up and to explore Eaglecrest," Plough said. "I know that to students at UAS sometimes it might seem like a long drive, but it's worth it to come up here and have fun in the mountains."



Photo By David McMaster

Big Air: A UAS student pulls a mid-air trick during last year's UAS Winter Games.

UAS' 50th Anniversary Reunion & Holiday Party

join us in celebrating UAS' Golden Anniversary

UAS 50

Reunion

students | alumni & friends | faculty | staff

Light hors d'oeuvres & desserts
no-host beer & wine
(over 21 guests only)

Saturday, December 9th
7pm - 1am

Dance to music through the decades starting from 1956 - present

in the gymnasium (non-marking indoor athletic shoes only)

Enjoy UAS memorabilia, slide show, trivia games, contests, etc.

at UAS Recreation Center
12300 Mendenhall Loop Road

Admission: FREE / RSVP kindly requested. Call 796-6566 or email at rsvp@uas.alaska.edu

Dress is casual, UAS logo wear optional!